

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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DAMASCUS PASS CODEL SOLARZ FOR APPROVAL OR REVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN)
SUBJECT: CODEL SOLARZ - WRAP-UP ON VISIT TO EGYPT

1. CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ PAID INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL VISIT TO EGYPT DECEMBER 17 - 22. WE MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FAHMY, PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I GOE FAMILY PLANNING DIRECTOR FATHIYYA MURSAFAWI AND LEADING JOURNALISTS MUHAMMAD SID AHMAD, BUTROS GHALI AND MUHAMMAD HASSANEIN KEYKAL. HE ALSO SAW BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS, HELD SEMINAR DISCUSSION WITH AUC STUDENTS AND RECEIVED SEVERAL BRIEFINGS FROM AMBASSADOR, AID MISSION DIRECTOR AND DEFENSE ATTACHE. CODEL MADE FIELD TRIPS TO SAKHA AGRICULTURAL STATION IN THE NILE DELTA TO REVIEW PLANNED AID AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AND TO SUEZ CANAL FOR FIRST HAND VIEW OF AID PROJECTS AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN ISMAILIA AND SUEZ AND FOR MEETING WITH SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN MASHOUR. REPORTS OF CONVERSATIONS WITH FAHMY AND SADAT REPORTED SEPTELS. HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER CONVERSATIONS FOLLOW. CODEL HAS NOT SEEN THIS MESSAGE.

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2. TO ALL LISTENERS, CODEL EXPLAINED THAT 1977 COULD WELL PROVE BE YEAR OF INTENSE ACTIVITY IN MIDDLE EAST AND, AS MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, HE FELT HE NEEDED TO VISIT AREA TO GAIN FIRST HAND VIEWS. HE REPEATEDLY SOUGHT EGYPTIAN REACTION TO VARIOUS

ISSUES. POSING HYPOTHETICAL AGREEMENT OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDERS (WITH WHATEVER MODIFICATIONS NECESSARY) AND ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SOME FORM OF WEST BANK/GAZA PALESTINIAN STATE, HE ASKED REACTIONS TO (A) CONTINUED ISRAELI PRESENCE IN SHARM AL-SHEIKH, (B) POSSIBILITY OF TRADE, TOURISM AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAB COUNTRIES, AND (C) ARAB AND PALESTINIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST. CODEL EMPHASIZED CENTRAL NEED, AS HE SEES IT, FOR ISRAEL TO OBTAIN GUARANTEES FROM ARABS THAT TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS WILL LEAD TO PERMANENT PEACE.

3. IN MEETING WITH FAMILY PLANNING HEAD, SOLARZ DESCRIBED HIS DEEP CONVICTION THAT FAMILY PLANNING SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY AID AND THAT HE INTENDED TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENT TO 1978 AID LEGISLATION REQUIRING THAT SOME PORTION OF AID (HE MENTIONED 6-10 MILLION DOLLARS) BE ALLOTTED TO FAMILY PLANNING PROJECT. HE REQUESTED MURSAFAWI TO PREPARE COUNTRY-WIDE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM FOR HIS USE IN FEBRUARY CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION. HE ADVISED MHER THAT IF SHE FOUND ANY "RESISTANCE" FROM AID IN DEVELOPING PROJECT, SHE SHOULD COME DIRECTLY TO HIM. (NOTE: AID HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SEEKING SUPPORT STRONG GOE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM FOR TWO YEARS OR MORE.) MURSAFAWI SAID THAT SHE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH AID AND THAT SHE WOULD PREPARE PLAN AND PROVIDE CONGRESSMAN WITH NECESSARY PROJECT INFORMATION. SAOLARZ EMPHASIZED THAT EGYPTIAN GOVT WOULD HAVE TO MAKE COMMITMENT TO THIS PROGRAM, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS MOST PRESSING PROBLEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACING EGYPT.

4. VARIOUS INTELLECTUALS AND JOURNALISTS CONVEYED STRONG IMPRESSION TO CODEL THAT EGYPT AND OTHER ARABS WANT LASTING PEACE, THAT PALESTINAINS MUST BE GIVEN THEIR OWN STATE IN WHICH THEY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OWN ACTS AND THAT WITH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND PEACE AGREEMENT PERMANENT PEACE COULD BE ESTABLISHED. MUHAMMAD SID AHMAD DESCRIBED IN DETAIL PLANS POSTULATED IN HIS NEW BOOK, "AFTER THE GUNS FALL SILENT," THAT ARAB AND JEWISH SETTLEMENTS MIGHT REMAIN IN EACH OTHER'S TERRITORIES AFTER SETTLEMENT.

5. MUCH OF SAME GROUND CONCERNING FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHICH WAS COVERED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY (SEPTTEL), WAS ALSO DISCUSSED WITH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I. SPEAKING ON US/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, MAR'I SAID THAT WHILE RELATIONS WITH US ARE MUCH IMPROVED, THERE IS STILL UNCERTAINTY AMONG PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT

AMERICAN IS DOING FOR EGYPT. LEFTISTS ARE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH PROCESS OF BETTER RELATIONS BY SAYING THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH US HAVE BROUGHT NOTHING FOR EGYPT. MAR'I SAID THAT US ASSISTANCE HAS TO BE MORE VISIBLE. LEFTISTS CONSTANTLY POINT TO HIGH DAM, HELWAN IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX AND NAG AL-HAMADI ALUMINUM FACTORY AS REAL EVIDENCE OF SOVIET DETERMINATION TO HELP EGYPT. ON INTERNAL SITUATION NAR'I SAID THAT CURRENT POLITICAL FREEDOM IS BEING MISUSED BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS. REAL PARTIES WHICH EXIST IN EGYPT ARE MUSLIM BROTHERS, COMMUNISTS AND THOSE WHO HOLD TO PRINCIPLES OF 1952 REVOLUTION, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS SOCIALISTS. HE WAS SLIGHTLY CRITICAL OF CURRENT PRE-OCCUPATION WITH POLITICS SAYING THAT EGYPT MUST FIRST SOLVE PROBLEM OF FEEDING ITS PEOPLE. ONLY THEN WILL THERE BE TIME FOR THE LUXURIES OF POLITICAL DEBATE. DEMOCRACY IN EGYPT MUST BE HARNESSSED TO ASSIST IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT CANNOT SIMPLY BE A COPY OF THE SYSTEM FROM ANOTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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